

**Alan Keith Lucas Lecture – Friday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**11:45am – 12:45pm (1.0CE)**

## **Linda Plitt Donaldson**

### **Restoring Hope in Challenging Times**

**Abstract:** Linda Plitt Donaldson will invite participants into a reflection about the ways in which Christian social workers can bring and restore hope into a troubled world. She will draw on a range of sources to unpack the meaning of hope, its particular meaning for Christians, and its implications for social work.

**Outline:** Topics to be addressed and timeline within the 60 minute presentation.

- Intro and Current context (10 minutes)
- Overview of Hope from a social work perspective (25 minutes)
- Examples and Exemplars of hope in our world 10 minutes)
- Implications for social workers (10 minutes)

**Learning Objectives:** *As a result of this presentation participants will be able to:*

- a. Have a fuller understanding of the macro context of our times into which we are called to bring and restore hope
- b. Gain a spiritually-based understanding of hope from a Christian perspective
- c. Be able to describe specific steps they can take to bring and restore hope into the world as Christian social workers.

**Primary Audience:** Social workers and related professionals; social work students; human services professionals; clergy

**Content Level:** Basic/Intermediate

**Number of Continuing Education Contact Hours: 1.0**

### **Bibliography**

Pope Francis (2018). *Hope*. Liturgical Press

*A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (HarperCollins: 1991, ©1986)

N.T. Wright. (2018). *Surprised by Hope*, Harper Collins

Chittister, J. (2005). *Scarred by struggle transformed by hope*

Catholic Study Bible

### **Bio**

Linda Plitt Donaldson, MSW, PhD is the Assistant Dean and MSW Program Director at the National Catholic School of Social. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought. She has written about the integration of Catholic Social Teaching in graduate social work education, and co-edited a special issue of the journal *Social Work and Christianity* on Catholic Social Teaching and social work that was published in the summer of 2012. Prior to teaching at NCSSS, Dr. Donaldson worked for ten years in a community-based homeless services agency in Washington, D.C, providing direct service, directing programs in advocacy, social justice, family services, and affordable housing.